

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claims 1-4 and substitute therefor Claims 5-16, as presented below. The status of all of the claims subsequent to entry of this Amendment will be as follows:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (new) A method of inhibiting the deposition of proteins on the surfaces of a medical device that is subject to prolonged exposures to proteins during use in or on the bodies of humans or other mammals, which comprises distributing an effective amount of a NIPAM polymer on said surfaces.

Claim 6 (new) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the NIPAM polymer is distributed on the surfaces of the medical device by applying a composition containing the NIPAM polymer to said surfaces.

Claim 7 (new) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the NIPAM polymer is distributed on the surfaces of the medical device by chemically grafting the NIPAM polymer to said surfaces.

Claim 8 (new) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of contact lenses, intraocular lenses, catheters, cardiac stents and prosthetics.

Claim 9 (new) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the medical device is a contact lens.

Claim 10 (new) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the medical device is an intraocular lens.

Claim 11 (new) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the medical device is a contact lens.

Claim 12 (new) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the medical device is an intraocular lens.

Claim 13 (new) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the medical device is a contact lens

Claim 14 (new) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the medical device is an intraocular lens.

Claim 15 (new) A contact lens, wherein the surfaces of the lens have been modified in accordance with the method of Claim 5.

Claim 16 (new) An intraocular lens, wherein the surfaces of the lens have been modified in accordance with the method of Claim 5.

Claim 17 (new) A solution for treating contact lenses, comprising an amount of a NIPAM polymer effective to inhibit the formation of protein deposits on said lenses, and an ophthalmically acceptable vehicle therefor.

Claim 18 (new) A solution according to Claim 17, wherein the solution contains the NIPAM polymer in an amount sufficient to provide the solution with a surface tension of less than 50 mNm⁻¹.

Claim 19 (new) A solution according to Claim 17, wherein the solution is a multi-purpose solution suitable for treating contact lenses on a daily basis.